

Message Text

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SUBJECT: KIRILENKO AWARD CEREMONY: SOME NUANCES

REF: MOSCOW 16291

1. COMPARISON OF THE TASS ACCOUNT OF KIRILENKO'S OCT. 14
ACCEPTANCE SPEECH WITH WHAT KIRILENKO ACTUALLY SAID--AS
CARRIED ON THE EVENING NEWS PROGRAM "VREMYA" OCT. 14 (AND
TAPED BY US)-- REVEALS SOME INTERESTING DIFFERENCES:

- IN EXPRESSING THANKS FOR THE HIGH EVALUATION OF
HIS WORK, KIRILENKO REFERRED TO BREZHNEV AS "GENERAL
SECRETARY OF OUR PARTY", WHILE TASS CHANGED THE PHRASE
TO READ "GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CC CPSU;"

-- AT THE BEGINNING OF REMARKS ADDRESSED TO BREZHNEV
KIRILENKO ADDED A PARENTHETICAL COMMENT, WHICH SOUNDED
LIKE AN AD LIB, THAT TASS DID NOT CARRY. KIRILENKO
SAID: "EXERCISING THE RIGHT OF ONE WHO IS CELEBRATING
A JUBILEE BIRTHDAY, A LITTLE DELAYED (NERVOUS
LAUGH), I WOULD LIKE TO . . ." THE PHRASE
"A LITTLE DELAYED" WAS CUT OUT OF THE TASS ACCOUNT;
-- TASS EDITED SLIGHTLY KIRILENKO'S COMMENT ABOUT
BEING 70 YEARS OLD. TASS HAD HIM SAYING "THE
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70-YEAR COURSE OF MY LIFE IS NOT A LITTLE, BUT

NOT THAT LARGE. IT IS GOOD, THAT IN OUR COUNTRY THIS AGE IS CONSIDERED ONLY MIDDLE." WHAT HE ACTUALLY SAID WAS "THE 70-YEAR COURSE OF MY LIFE IS OF COURSE NOT A LITTLE, BUT NOT THAT LARGE, AND IT IS GOOD THAT IN OUR COUNTRY THIS AGE IS CONSIDERED MIDDLE AGE."

2. TWO OTHER ASPECTS OF KIRILENKO'S SPEECH ARE WORTH NOTING. IN THE SPOKEN VERSION, KIRILENKO EMPHASIZED HOW HAPPY HE WAS THAT ON THIS MEMORABLE DAY "YOU, LEONID I'lich, ARE TOGETHER WITH US." THE IMPLICATION SEEMED TO BE THAT BREZHNEV'S PRESENCE WAS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT-- WHEN IN FACT BREZHNEV ATTENDED THE LAST THREE COMPARABLE 70TH BIRTHDAY CEREMONIES AND WOULD NORMALLY BE EXPECTED TO ATTEND SUCH AFFAIRS. TASS DID NOT EDIT THIS PART OF THE SPEECH, BUT KIRILENKO'S EMPHASIS WAS NOT REFLECTED IN THE PRINTED ACCOUNT.

3. AND WHEN KIRILENKO REFERRED TO BREZHNEV AS "VOZHD," HE PLACED ABSOLUTELY NO EMPHASIS ON THE TERM.

4. COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT THE KIRILENKO CEREMONY WAS HELD ON THE EXACT ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER 1964 CC PLENUM WHICH OUSTED KHRUSCHEV AND INSTALLED BREZHNEV IN HIS PLACE. THIS COULD IN PART EXPLAIN THE TIMING OF THE CEREMONY AS WELL AS THE TONE OF KIRILENKO'S EXTENDED REMARKS ABOUT BREZHNEV: KIRILENKO MAY HAVE INTENDED INDIRECTLY TO COMMEMORATE THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF BREZHNEV'S RULE.

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